

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving information about a medical procedure performed for a patient based
 - 3 upon a request from a healthcare provider;
 - 4 performing a query function to retrieve from one or more databases a list of data
 - 5 sources based upon the received information about the medical procedure; and
 - 6 generating one or more documents containing the list of data sources retrieved
 - 7 from the database.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the information about the medical procedure
 - 2 comprises one or more procedure codes indicating the medical procedure performed for
 - 3 the patient.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the one or more procedure codes comprise
 - 2 procedure codes according to the Current Procedure Terminology (CPT).
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the one or more procedure codes comprise
 - 2 procedure codes according to the International Classification of Disease (ICD).
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 receiving information about the patient including diagnosis information based
3 upon a diagnosis of the patient performed by the healthcare provider, the diagnosis
4 information comprises one or more diagnosis codes indicating one or more conditions of
5 the patient based upon the diagnosis.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein a data source is referenced by an address
2 corresponding to a location where the data source resides.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the address corresponding to the location where
2 the data source resides comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein performing the query function comprises:
2 generating a set of queries containing query criteria based on the received
3 information about the medical procedure; and
4 executing the set of queries to retrieve from the one or more databases the list of
5 data sources matching the query criteria.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein generating the set of queries comprises:
2 selecting a set of existing queries that correspond to the received information
3 about the medical procedure.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein generating the set of queries comprises:

2 constructing a set of queries based on the information received about the medical
3 procedure.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein constructing comprises:
2 determining one or more medical procedure identifiers from the information
3 received.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein a medical procedure identifier corresponds to a
2 procedure code.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein a medical procedure identifier corresponds to a
2 procedure description.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more medical procedure identifiers
2 are included in the information received.

1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more medical procedure identifiers
2 are derived from the information received.

1 16. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 determining additional procedure identifiers that are equivalent to the one or more
3 procedure identifiers included in the information received.

1 17. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 allowing the healthcare provider to access the one or more documents via a
3 computer network.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

2 allowing the healthcare provider to provide feedback or comments with respect to
3 the information contained in the one or more documents.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the computer network is selected from the group
2 consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, and the Internet.

1 20. The method of claim 8 wherein the query criteria include contextual information
2 applicable to the information received.

1 21. A database of information comprising:

2 a first code corresponding to a medical procedure;

3 a list of one or more definitions corresponding to the first code; and

4 a first list of data sources obtained based upon the one or more definitions.

1 22. The database of claim 21 wherein the one or more definitions are used to identify

2 a set of documents from which the data sources are selected.

1 23. The database of claim 26 further comprising:

2 a first set of queries containing query criteria based on the one or more definitions
3 of the first code.

1 24. The database of claim 23 wherein the query criteria further comprise contextual
2 information applicable to the first code.

1 25. The database of claim 23 wherein the queries are used to identify the set of
2 documents from which the data sources are selected.

1 26. The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a medical procedure code
2 corresponding to a particular medical procedure performed by a healthcare service
3 provider.

1 27. The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the Current
2 Procedural Terminology (CPT).

1 28. The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the
2 International Classification of Disease (ICD).

1 29. The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the HCFA
2 Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).

1 30. The database of claim 21 wherein the first code is a code according to the READ
2 code classification.

1 31. The database of claim 21 wherein a data source is referenced by an address
2 corresponding to a location where the data source resides.

1 32. The database of claim 31 wherein the address corresponding to the location where
2 the data source resides comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1 33. A method of developing a database of information, comprising:
2 generating one or more queries based upon a procedure code;
3 identifying one or more documents based upon the one or more queries;
4 performing a selection process to select a subset of documents from the one or
5 more documents identified based upon a set of selection criteria; and
6 storing the subset of documents in the database.

1 34. The method of claim 33 wherein the procedure code is an International
2 Classification of Disease (ICD) code or a Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) code.

1 35. The method of claim 33 wherein the one or more queries are based upon a first
2 definition of the procedure code according to a specific classification scheme.

1 36. The method of claim 33 wherein the one or more queries are based upon one or
2 more additional definitions of the procedure code.

1 37. The method of claim 33 wherein identifying the one or more documents
2 comprises:
3 identifying a list of databases on the World Wide Web (WWW); and
4 searching the databases using the one or more queries to identify the one or more
5 documents that match the query criteria specified in the one or more queries.

1 38. A system comprising:
2 a first database to store multiple lists of content links, each list corresponding to a
3 specific medical procedure code; and
4 a first server to receive information about a medical procedure from one or more
5 sources, said information about the medical procedure including one or more procedure
6 codes, the first server to retrieve from the first database one or more lists of content links
7 based upon the one or more procedure codes received, the first server to generate one or
8 more documents containing the one or more list of content links retrieved from the first
9 database.

1 39. The system of claim 38 wherein the one or more documents generated are stored
2 in a second database.

1 40. The system of claim 38 wherein the one or more documents are made accessible
2 to a healthcare provider via a computer network.

1 41. The system of claim 38 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

1 42. The system of claim 38 wherein the first server comprises:
2 logic to receive the information about the medical procedure from the one or more
3 sources;
4 logic to generate a set of queries based upon one or more definitions
5 corresponding to the one or more procedure codes received; and
6 logic to execute the set of queries to retrieve from the first database the one or
7 more list of content links that correspond to the set of queries.

1 43. The system of claim 38 wherein each list of content links stored in the first
2 database is identified using a set of queries generated from one or more definitions
3 associated with the respective procedure code.

1 44. The system of claim 38 wherein the set of queries is used to search one or more
2 databases on the World Wide Web to identify a potential list of content links.

1 45. The system of claim 38 wherein the potential list of content links is used to select
2 the corresponding list of content links that is stored in the first database.

1 46. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a
2 machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:
3 receiving information about a medical procedure performed for a patient based
4 upon a request from a healthcare provider;
5 performing a query function to retrieve from a database a list of data sources
6 based upon the received information about the medical procedure; and
7 generating one or more documents containing the list of data sources retrieved
8 from the database.

1 47. The machine-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the information about the
2 medical procedure comprises one or more procedure codes indicating the medical
3 procedure performed for the patient.

1 48. The machine-readable medium of claim 46 wherein the one or more procedure
2 codes comprise procedure codes according to the Current Procedure Terminology (CPT)
3 or the International Classification of Disease (ICD).

1 49. The machine-readable medium of claim 48 wherein performing the query
2 function comprises:
3 generating a set of queries containing query criteria based on the received
4 information about the medical procedure; and
5 executing the set of queries to retrieve from the database the list of data sources
6 matching the query criteria.

1 50. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a
2 machine, cause the machine to perform the following:
3 generating one or more queries based upon a procedure code;
4 identifying one or more documents based upon the one or more queries;
5 performing a selection process to select a subset of documents from the one or
6 more documents identified based upon a set of selection criteria; and
7 storing the subset of documents in a database.

1 51. The machine-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the procedure code is an
2 International Classification of Disease (ICD) code or a Current Procedure Terminology
3 (CPT) code.

1 52. The machine-readable medium of claim 51 wherein the one or more queries are
2 based upon a first definition of the procedure code.

1 53. The machine-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the one or more queries are
2 based upon one or more additional definitions of the procedure code.

1 54. The machine-readable medium of claim 50 wherein identifying the one or more
2 documents comprises:
3 identifying a list of databases on the World Wide Web (WWW); and
4 searching the databases using the one or more queries to identify the one or more
5 documents that match the query criteria specified in the one or more queries.

1 55. A database comprising:
2 a list of patients; and
3 for each patient in the list, a set of documents each generated based upon
4 information received from a healthcare service provider following a performance of a
5 medical procedure for the respective patient according to a request by the respective
6 patient's healthcare provider, said set of documents being accessible by said respective
7 healthcare provider via a computer network.

1 56. The database of claim 55 wherein the information received from said healthcare
2 service provider comprises one or more procedure codes, said one or more procedure
3 codes being used to retrieve one or more lists of data sources to be included in the
4 respective document for the respective patient.

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